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ACI - M6
October 8, 1946

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Sixth Meeting
October 8, 1946
4:30 - 5:30 P.M.

Minutes

Present: Messrs. Eddy, SA-E (Chairman)
Braden, A-Br
Russell, A-R
Hickerson (for A-D)
Evans, OCL (Executive Secretary)

1. Withdrawal of Personnel in OAR.

The Chairman mentioned to the Committee that he had had a conference with Ambassador Pawley, who was much concerned over the abrupt withdrawal of FBI personnel from Brazil, and over a letter from Mr. Hoover refusing to cooperate with the organization replacing his men.

2. Allocation of Reporting Responsibility in the Field.

The Chairman presented the report of the Subcommittee appointed to draw up a memorandum on the responsibilities of the Department for the reporting and collection of information and intelligence, of which a copy is attached.

Mr. Hickerson suggested modifying the text to read that the Department should have primary responsibility for procurement and exclusive responsibility for reporting, with the implication that any officer of a mission might acquire information that overlapped into the responsibility of another member of the staff, but that

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such information should be exchanged within the mission and reported on only by the responsible officer. It was agreed, however, that the word "exclusive" might occasion difficulties in areas where no multiple representation existed.

ACTION: The Committee approved the draft statement reported by the Subcommittee. (See Enclosure I.)

3. Memorandum on Overseas Research Personnel.

The Chairman requested discussion of the draft memorandum previously circulated to the members of the Committee, which supports the program for overseas personnel in research and intelligence. He proposed to address a memorandum of this sort to the Bureau of the Budget to cover the detailed budget request.

Mr. Braden suggested omitting the supporting documents attached to the memorandum, which were a letter from Embassy Nanking and the report of a conversation with the Librarian of Congress; he felt that these presented a picture inapplicable to the situation as a whole. It was agreed to remove the two attachments and to drop all reference to them in paragraph 3 of the memorandum.

Mr. Braden suggested modifying paragraph 2, in that for certain areas it would be exaggerated to say that existing staff "usually" lacked training to perform the function of the specialized researcher. In discussion it was agreed that this condition varied from area to area, and that in the Near East language qualifications were rarer than in ARA, but that general conditions would be more accurately represented by some modification of the passage, and of a similar passage in paragraph 3. The Chairman undertook to make such modifications. (The text revised to meet these suggestions, follows the minutes as Enclosure II.)

Mr. Russell emphasized that in some areas staff was now adequate, but that the overseas staff for research would be useful for special areas and for areas with unusual work-loads. The Committee then inspected

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the budget request, and approved it subject to the understanding that the detailed geographical allocations would be readjusted in practice.

ACTION: The Committee, after full and careful consideration, desired to go on record as endorsing the program for overseas personnel for the Research and Intelligence organization for the fiscal year 1948, and agreed that the Chairman's memorandum, with modifications as discussed, should accompany the budget proposals to implement the program.

4. Title of a Course at American University.

The Chairman brought to the attention of the Committee a course listed in the American University announcement given by a member of the Department and described in the announcement as an evaluation of U.S. policy. It was agreed by the Committee that the description of the course was of a nature which too easily suggested a violation of security.

Encl.: I and II

Verified:

M. J. Lawrence
Executive Secretary

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DRAFT MEMORANDUM

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR
THE REPORTING AND COLLECTION OF INFORMATION AND
INTELLIGENCE

The Department of State assumes complete responsibility for procurement of information and intelligence in foreign areas on all political, economic, social and cultural matters. The Department of State further assumes the responsibility for scientific information and intelligence, with such exceptions as fall within the naval and military fields.

Above draft memorandum agreed to: GEORGE R. FEARING, JR.
Chairman, Subcommittee

ELLIS O. BRIGGS
Member, Subcommittee

FREDERICK B. LYON
Member, Subcommittee

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October 9, 1946

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TO: OBP - Mr. Harry Kurth

SUBJECT: Notes on Program for Overseas Personnel in Research and Intelligence

REFERENCE: Memorandum from OPS, Mr. Julian Herrington, dated September 13, 1946, to OBP, Mr. Harry Kurth, concerning the Research and Intelligence Program.

1. The life blood of intelligence is the stream of raw material from primary sources in the field. The Foreign Service covers official, and many unofficial, sources of political and economic information, but at many points specialists are needed to unearth intelligence materials buried in inaccessible places or behind barriers of language. We have had recently admissions from the Research Divisions that they are largely dependent on public sources of information because of the limited range of information received through the Foreign Service.

2. Foreign Service officers often have neither the time nor the training to perform the function of the specialized researcher whose work must be uninterrupted and who must be equipped with many years of linguistic and bibliographical training. This is as true in the field as it is in the Department. In fact, a proposal to staff the Research Divisions from top to bottom with Foreign Service or Department political officers would be just as logical as to maintain that the Foreign Service alone can discharge the full function of research and intelligence in the field. The Research Divisions require country specialists who devote years of research to a single area or language. The long standing need of the Department for research specialists has been widely recognized, as well as the fact that it could not be met simply by assigning additional political or Foreign Service officers to the country desks. It is submitted that the need for research specialists in the field is equivalent to the need for specialists in the Department. Specialists will be found, of course, where they are requested and needed and nowhere else. The language factor alone suggests that the need is greater in Eastern Europe, the Near and Far East than it is in Western Europe or Latin America, which use European languages with which most Foreign Service officers are familiar.

3. The need, it should be made clear, is for specialists in a business which is very specialized,--a business to which men give many years of training and of concentration upon a single geographic

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